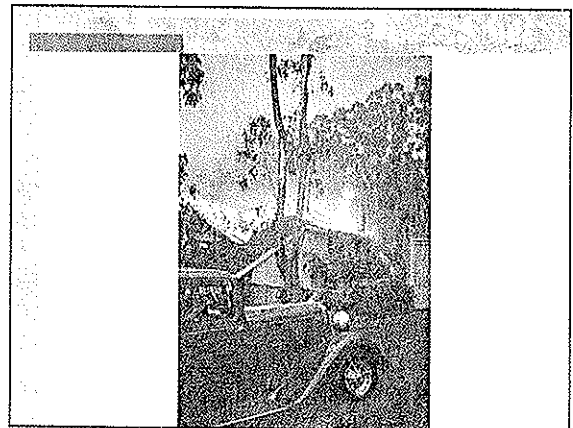
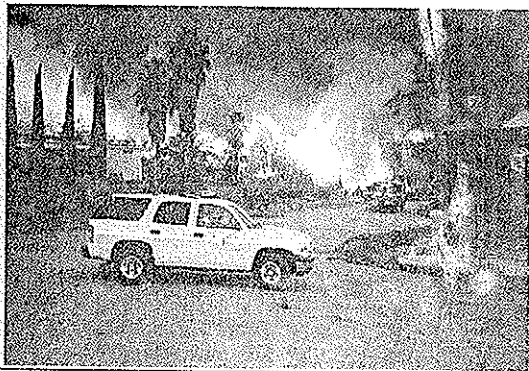
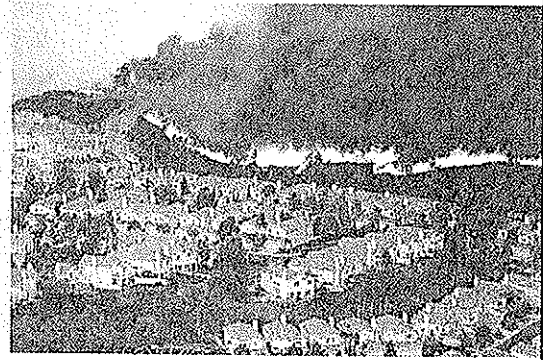


Landscaping For Fire Safety

General Concepts and Choices



John Melvin
CA Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection
Urban & Community Forestry Program
Town of Loomis Public Meeting
October 15, 2007



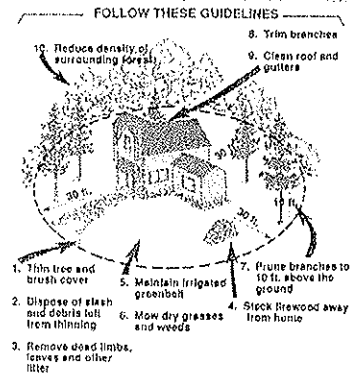
Laws

- CA Public Resources Code 4290-4296.5
- CA Forest Practice Act and Rules
- Local Ordinances – can be more strict.



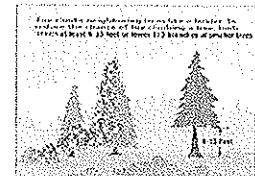
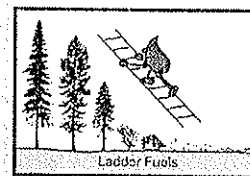
Some resources for you to use

- <http://www.firewise.org/> - A fire safety organization.
- <http://www.firecouncil.org/> - get involved locally
- <http://www.fire.ca.gov/> - CAL FIRE information and education
- <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/> - USFS info. and education

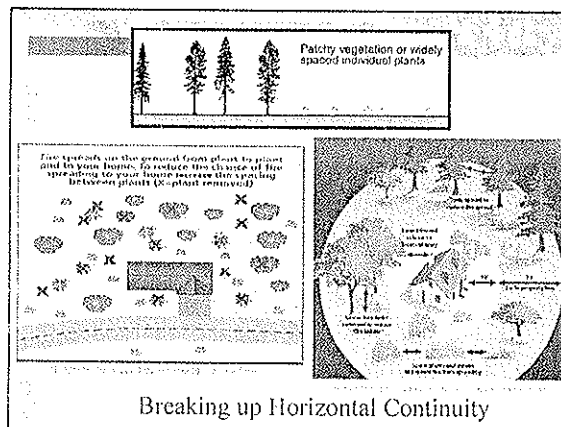
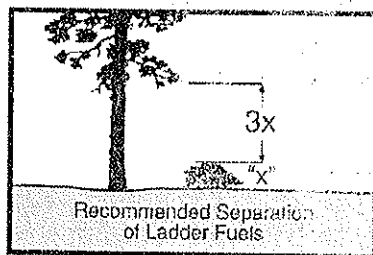


Continuity of Fuels

- Breaking up continuity of fuels is the key to fire safe landscaping.
- Breaking the continuity makes it more difficult for flames to spread.
- Vertical continuity
- Horizontal continuity
- Slope is a major factor



Vertical Continuity



Weed Control Methods

- Chemicals. May be toxic to kids, animals, and the environment.
- Manual. Mowing, disking, etc.... Can be very time consuming and expensive. May need to be repeated several times in a year. Can start fires.
- Animals. Goats, sheep etc.... Relatively expensive, labor intensive, can cause erosion.
- The best choice depends on your individual circumstances and preferences.
- Use of wood chips or bark is an excellent weed control. This is also not particularly good at carrying a flame due to the density of the fuel. Wood chips are cheap and easy to come by.



Wood Chips Slowed This Fire Which Was Then Put Out

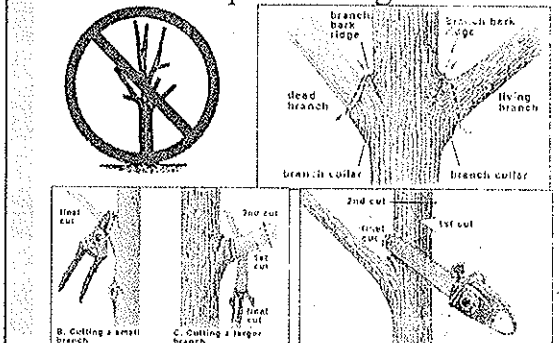
Species Selection

- Choose fire adapted species. Your local nursery should be able to help with this.
- The trees closest to your home should be deciduous if you have the choice. In general, deciduous trees burn less readily.
- All fine fuels, such as dry grasses, should be kept away from your home (at least 100 feet by law). Nothing less than 18 inches.
- Think about which species will be fire resistant AND provide you with the characteristics you desire.
- Shade is important! You can save lots of money on your energy bills.
- Erosion is a real concern if there is no vegetation on your property.

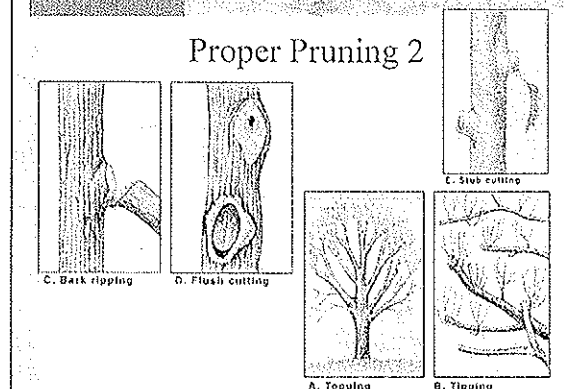
General Pruning Concepts

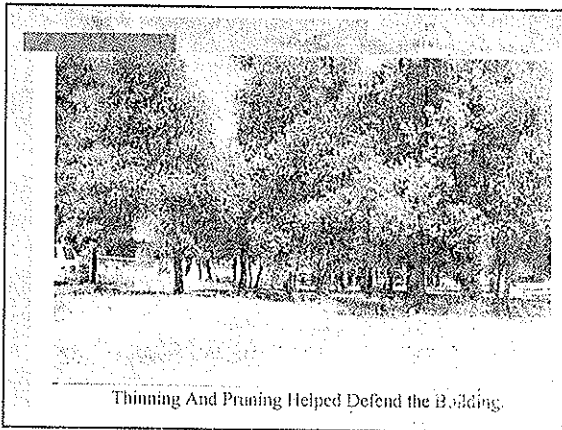
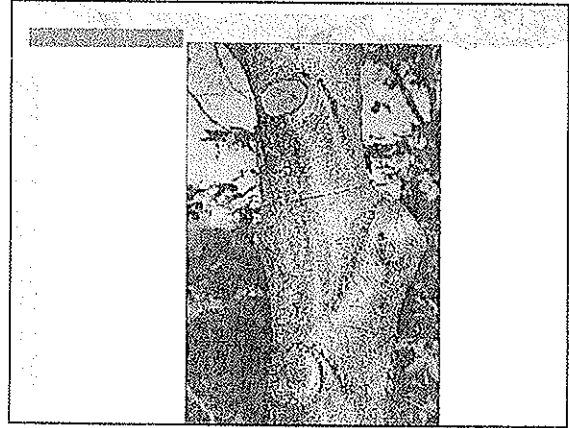
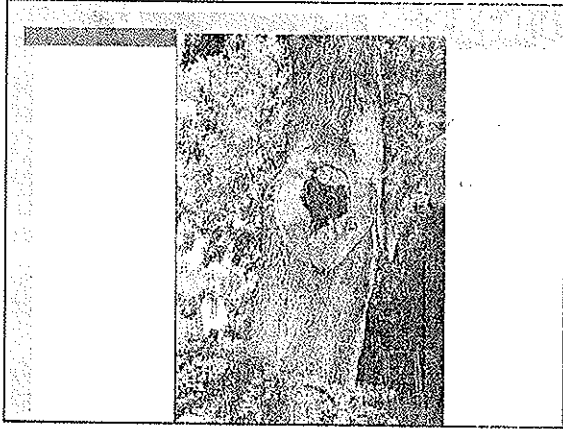
- Good cuts mean better wound response and thus healthier trees (any woody plant for that matter).
- Never remove more than 1/3 of the foliage from a tree.
- Raising the crown is good, but the acceptable height to raise will vary by the size and species of the tree.
- Don't create a hazard tree or a maintenance nightmare.

Proper Pruning

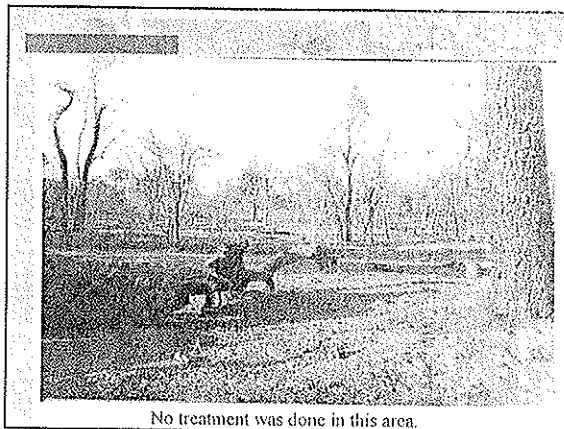
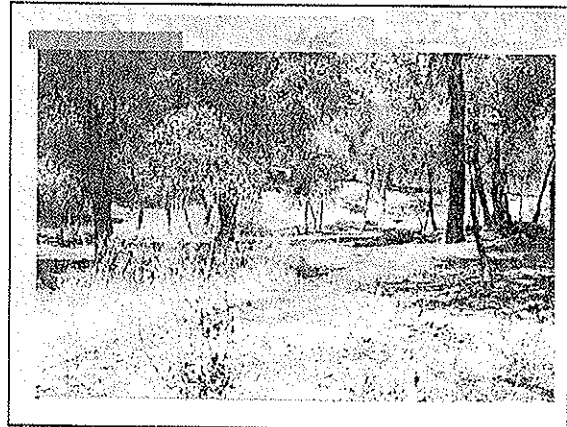


Proper Pruning 2





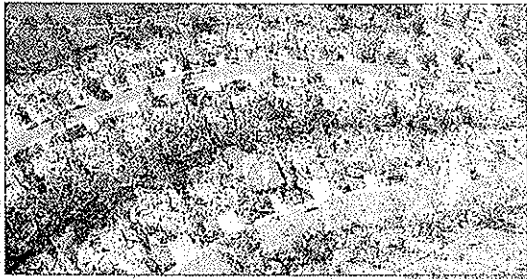
Thinning And Pruning Helped Defend the Building.



No treatment was done in this area.

Maintenance

- You cannot just do this once and walk away!!!
- It takes constant maintenance and attention to remain fire safe!!!
- If initially done well, the maintenance will not be as difficult or time consuming.
- Stay on top of things, don't let it get away from you.
- Things like pruning, adding more mulch or wood chips are key.
- Healthy plants and trees are safer plants and trees.



Notice that many of the trees and most vegetation never burned here.

Fire safe landscaping is one of the responsibilities of owning property. Protect yourself and your community by landscaping fire safe and advocating for the same to everyone else in your community.

Thank you for your attention. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

John Melvin

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